Rs. 56.6 crores *i.e.* almost 100 per per cent more than that of the Sixth Plan. The productivity of rice has already become the highest in the North Eastern Region and compares well with the country. Though the intensive measures undertaken to boost agricultural production, the State is likely to become self-sufficient in foodgrains during the Seventh Plan.

(v) The flood problem in Manipur is not a major problem The flood control works are in the nature of construction of embankments and drainage channels.

People below poverty line

1897. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the percentage of population (rural and urban), below the poverty line, as on January 1, 1987, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SUKH RAM): The estimate of the percentage of people below the poverty line as on 1st January, 1987 are not available. The poverty estimate in the Planning Commission are worked out using the National School Survey (NSS data) on household consumption expenditure. The latest data on household consumption expenditure of NSS are available for the year 1983. Based on the 1983 Survey data the State-wise estimates of number and percentage of people living below poverty line have been worked out for Rural/Urban areas for 1983-84 and the details are given in the close Annexure. [See Appendix CXLI Annexure No 79].

Acquittal of Person under Narcotics and psychotropic Substances Act, 1985

1898. SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be leased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a Metropolitan Magistrate, Delhi has on 29th January, 1937 acquited one person for processing Ganja because the Notification under the Narcotics, Drugs and Psychotropic Substance Act, 1985 has not been issued by the Government;

(b) whether Government is aware that the said Act, came into effect on 14th November, 1986 till 29th January, 1987, no notification as required under law had been issued by the Government; and

(c) if so the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In view of the traditional use of *Ganja* and its non-prohibition in the States of West Bengal, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh, *Ganja* has been accorded a special status under the Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985. The Government had also entered a reservation while rectifying the single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961 to continue non-medical use of *Ganja* by the end of 1989. While a minimum imprisonment has been prescribed for all other narcotics and psychotropic substances, no such minimum has been laid down for Ganja. The notification to be issued by the Government under proviso to section 8 of the aforesaid Act would require to have a uniform application all over India and hence can only be

issued by the end of 1983 when such prohibition would also be applicable to the aforesaid three States. In the *intervening period prosecution for* offences relating to Ganja are covered under the rules framed under section 10 of the aforesaid Act by the State Government read with their respective excise laws. The prosecution should therefore be covered under the rules framed by the Delhi State Administration under section 10 of the aforesaid Act read with their excise laws: The Delhi Administration has, therefore, appropriately been advised to file a Revision in the Competent Higher Court.

Representation of SC/ST in Class 'A' posts of Government

1899. SHRI H. HANMANTHAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Class 'A' posts of the Central Government; and

*(b) what steps Government pro*pose to take to improve the percentage of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in these posts?

THE DEPUTY MINISTRY IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) The percentage of representation of Group 'A' posts of the Central Government as on 1-1-1985, is 7.30 per cent and 1.73 per cent for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes respectively.

(b) In posts which are filled by Direct Recruitment, various concessions in age, travelling allowances, relaxation in minmum standard and relaxation in experience qualification have been provided. Provision also exists for separate interview of candidates belonging to these communities as well as total exemption for them from payment of fees. In some cases, Limited Departmental examinations confined only to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates are also held. Coaching centres have also been started to prepare Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates for various competitive examinations, for recruitment to various services/posts. These steps are resulting in progressive improvement in the representation of Scheduled *Castes and Scheduled Tribes in* Group 'A' Posts.

Technology for Silicon Solar Cells

1900. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while rejecting the import of photovoltaic technology for silicon solar cells in favour of the know-how developed by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited and Central Electronics Limited, Government has discarded the Import Substitution Award Winning solar cell technology, developed by the Solid State Physics Laboratory of the Ministry of Defence, because it was never commercialised, no foreign exchange was saved and yet imports were deemed to have been substituted;

(b) what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what action is contemplated against persons responsible for misleading the country and for failing to take remedial steps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI